Mr. Jefferson Morley, Outlook
The Washington POst

1150 15 St., NW
Washington, DC 20071

8/29/93

Dear Mr. Morley,

Please exuse the haste with which I ~~rite~~ write you, my typing, which cannot be any better, and the forceful language to which I'll resort the resons for which are not entirely to get your attention. They do not intend ~~p~~personal or professional insult.

But to begin with I state without question your article, no matter how well intended, reflects an ignorance of all aspects of this matter I think cannot be excused in the major media after 30 years.

There is no real possibility that the disclosed, if that id what really happened, records hold any smoking gun. I address this, among other things, in a coming book the appearance of which I cannot tell you, rather when it will appear.

Only to a limited degree can the major media blame the multitudinous conspiracy theories for its ignorance. If it had not used those theories to misdirect its own and public attention for ~~years~~ years, the media would not today be as ignorant as it if. If the major media had made any real effort to learn the realities of the situation, it would have known that the crime itself was never officially investigated, was never intended to be officially investigated, as I document in this coming book, ~~that~~ and that as result there are neither genuine investigative leads to be followed or solutions to the ~~xxxx~~ crime in that ocean of records the sheer volume of which denies any meaningful access to them.

(I have addressed this is an overly hasty, hoped submission I've mailed to Mr. ~~Rxxxx~~ Rosnefeld. I owe him or his department thanks for the Friday editorial I missed and am getting. I am told it ~~as~~ says that there really is something other than conspiracy theorizing. How grateful I am for that!!)

You ~~xxxxxxxx~~ write about a "fuller understanding of Nov. 22,1963." What do you mean or want the reader to understand? You do not reflect any understanding at all in,"To assert that Oswald acted alone is (in the sense of our hopes and fears about the legitimacy of American institutions), an expression of confidence in Amerixan institutions; that the executive branch and mainstream media organizations have uncovered and shared the truth about the assassination ~~and shared that~~ with the people."

Tragically, the exact opposite is the reality. And what can you say that the major media did to uncover the truth? Other than for the most part refuse to pay attention to it when it was given to them.

I skip in your piece as something catches my eye, "There was a legitimate fear ~~that~~ the assassination could lead to a nuclear war with the Soviet Union." Do you really think the USSR preferred Johnson to Kennedy? That was the argument by which Lyndon Johnson convinced Warren to take the job he knew he should not take so Johnson could trade on his name.

It is true that "for years" the major media "shunned serious investigative work on the case" and you say they are returning to it. Baloney! They do not know enough to start and they do not know where to go or to look or what to look for. What will those missing Oswald photos do to solve the crime?

The media's deplorable record is reflected in a tiny degree by what you may remember having heard somewhere, that an Army file on Oswald " was never turned over to the Warren Commission" and "independent researchers later learned that the file had been 'routinely destroyed' in 1973." It was at least three files, all the Army then admitted having, it was not "independent researchers" most of whom are conspiracy theorists, it was at Indiantown Gap, I learned it, the Post was not interested in it and I gave it to Les Whitten who used it in a Jack Anderson column.

You reflect further lack of understanding in your conclusion, to which I skip having so little time, "So, now is the time to release all documents and answer all the nagging questions: like what happened to the CIA's photographs of Lee Harvey Oswald in Mexico City..." Welcome to the world conspiracy theorists, Jefferson Morley, Outlook and the Washington Post!

Of course we should know all those things but they will not and cannot do what you tell your readers they will do. You cannot answer the nagging questions with playing detective-story games. And do you think you have scratched the surface of all the many nagging questions?

Until the major media, the Post in particular, puts its mind together and decides how to think and what the realities are, this will be the nagging cause of really great public dissatisfaction.

The little recognized thrust of all my work is that in that time of great crisis and since then all our major instiuttions, including the government and the media, failed and continue to fail. Recognizing and admitting this is the required understanding for any meaningful inquiry to begin.

There is no reason to believe now that the crime can or will be solved. But what can be done to restore a bit of public confident both the government and the media need is the simple thing we teach children and as adults so often do not practise: tell the truth. Admit failure. Perhaps ask to be forgiven.

And, of course, learn from the past and not repeat it. That is what led to the title of my coming book, NEVER AGAIN!

Frankly, I am aghast that the Post and all others did not stop to ask how in the world there can be meaningful access to 800,000 pages! Or to ask why so many that can be released are released in one indigestible gulp so few can even think of paying for, leave alone digest. But I'm glad to see something to think about and I hope that at long last the Post will do some real thinking and come to understand the realities on its own. I hope you share this with others. Sincerely, Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg